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MaineGeneral's CarePartners program lauded for commitment to Maine people

MaineGeneral Medical Center's CarePartners staff was recently recognized by the Maine Health Access Foundation (MeHAF) for their commitment to improving the health of Maine residents.

MaineGeneral's program is headed by supervisor Jan Murton and is staffed by care managers, intake staff and pharmacy technicians who help individuals access free and low-cost health care services and medications.

CarePartners is a group of doctors, hospitals and other health care providers who volunteer health care services for individuals who don't have health insurance and aren't eligible for MaineCare or Medicare. Those services include: physician office visits; prescription medications; lab, X-ray and hospital services at no cost; and referrals to specialist services and resources.

Started by MaineGeneral as the MATCH program in 2000, the program transitioned to CarePartners when it expanded to include other health care providers.

In its recognition, MeHAF cited MaineGeneral staff "who helped MeHAF develop its first learning collaborative so that organizations could build on each others' success and learn from each others' challenges to maximize their collective impact over the years."

According to MeHAF, MaineGeneral Medical Center, and nine other non-profit organizations and their partners across the state have helped Maine people:

- Access approximately \$12 million in free or low-cost medications from drug manufacturer patient assistance programs;
- Enroll qualified people in federal, state and local free and low-cost medication programs; and
- Effectively manage their medications.

These actions, MeHAF said, "led to reductions in self-reported medical and hospital visits and improved health status."

For more information on the CarePartners program, call the toll-free number (877) 883-1797.